Grain Bank Scheme in the adivasi areas

609. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Grain Bank Scheme is being implemented in some of the adivasi areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this scheme has proved to be useful for the adivasis;

(c) whether Government would implement the Grain Bank Scheme in all the adivasi areas keeping in view of its success; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Village Grain Bank Scheme was launched in 1996-97 by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for establishment of Grain Banks in tribal areas. Against the sanctioned 4,858 Banks, 1483 Grain Banks were set up in adivasi areas of 11 States upto the year 2004. The scheme has been transferred to Department of Food and Public Distribution for its revision and implementation. The revised scheme has been approved by the Government and circulated to the State Governments for implementing in the chronically food scarce areas including the adivasi areas.

The Scheme provides safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamity or during the lean season when the marginalised food insecured households do not have sufficient resources to purchase rations. The scheme envisages establishment of grain banks by Gram Panchayats through Gram Sabhas, Self Help Groups or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in food scarce village/areas as notified by State Government/UT Administration. The Central Government will allocate foodgrains to each Grain Bank @ one quintal per family for an average 40 Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families which will be released as one time grant on 'free of cost basis'. The provision for storage, transportation training and monitoring has also been made. The people belonging to BPL/AAY families are eligible to become members of the Grain Bank, who will manage the affairs of the

Bank through an executive committee elected by themselves and having at least one woman member.

The Government proposes to implement the revised scheme during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 it is proposed to establish approximately 12,000 Grain Banks in the country in the food scarce areas including adivasi areas.

Diversion of items meant for PDS

610. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that surveys conducted by independent agencies had revealed that 100 per cent diversion in the case of wheat and 60 per cent diversion in rice meant for the public distribution system have been taking place in most of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the diversion of items meant for PDS including in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a recent study conducted by ORG Marg, New Delhi on evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System in the country diversion of foodgrains (wheat and rice) has been reported in most of the States. In the North Eastern States the position reported is as under:—

Name of the State	Diversion (%)	
	Rice	Wheat
Arunachal Pradesh	64.1	96.2
Assam	37.2	100.0
Manipur	97.7	100.0
Meghalaya	61.3	100.0
Mizoram	52.6	100.0
Nagaland	88.6	100.0
Sikkim	Negligible	100.0
Tripura	3.8	Not Calculated